

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A scalpel, comprising:  
a scalpel blade holder with a handle region, and  
a scalpel blade attached to the scalpel blade holder, wherein  
the handle region comprises three lateral faces which are disposed such that a cross-section with a substantially triangular envelope results for the handle region, and  
at least one of the lateral faces is provided with tactile identifying features, the tactile identification features enabling the user to determine, using the sense of touch in his fingers, the orientation of a scalpel blade attached to the blade holder in relation to its rotation about a center axis of the handle region.
2. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tactile identifying features is designed as a protrusion.
3. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tactile identifying features is designed as a recess.
4. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein the recess extends over at least part of the length of the scalpel blade holder.
5. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the lateral faces are each provided with tactile identifying features different from one another.
6. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tactile identifying features is designed as a protrusion and extends over two of the lateral faces, and at least one of the tactile identifying features is designed as a recess and is disposed on the remaining third lateral face.

7. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein the protrusions are designed as ribs which extend crosswise to the longitudinal axis of the scalpel blade holder.

8. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein the envelope of the cross-section of the handle region has substantially the form of an arc triangle, and the envelope of the cross-section of the handle region has rounded corners.

9. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein the scalpel blade holder has an end region which tapers from the handle region, and the means of attaching the scalpel blade comprises a bore, running axially through the end region, for receiving the scalpel blade.

10. (Currently Amended) Scalpel ~~blade holder~~ according to claim 1, wherein a bore axis of said bore runs offset from a center axis of the handle region and parallel to the center axis of the handle region.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) Scalpel according to claim 1, wherein the tactile identifying features are designed such that they represent an identification code identifying a type of scalpel blade.

13. (Previously Presented) A scalpel, comprising:  
a scalpel blade holder with a handle region, and  
a scalpel blade attached to the scalpel blade holder, wherein  
the handle region comprises three lateral faces which are disposed such that a cross section with a substantially triangular envelope results for the handle region, the three lateral faces being arranged in such a way that, when the handle region is held properly between the middle finger, thumb, and index finger of a person using the scalpel blade holder,

three different rotational states about a centre axis of the handle region can be assumed relative to the fingers, and

at least one of the lateral faces is provided with tactile identification features, the tactile identification features enabling the user to determine, using the sense of touch in his fingers, the orientation of a scalpel blade attached to the blade bolder in relation to its rotation about the centre axis.

14. (Previously Presented) A scalpel, comprising:

a scalpel blade holder with a handle region, and

a scalpel blade attached to the scalpel blade holder, wherein

the handle region comprises three lateral faces which are disposed rectilinearly along a longitudinal axis of the scalpel blade holder, such that a cross section with a substantially triangular envelope results for the handle region, the three lateral faces being arranged in such a way that, when the handle region is held properly between the middle finger, thumb, and index finger of a person using the scalpel blade holder, only three different rotational states about a centre axis of the handle region can be assumed relative to the fingers, and

at least one of the lateral faces is provided with tactile identification features, the tactile identification features enabling the user to determine, using the sense of touch in his fingers, the orientation of a scalpel blade attached to the blade holder in relation to its rotation about the centre axis.